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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, EB/TRA/AN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: UNITED AIRLINES TO KUWAIT; OPEN SKIES STILL PENDING

REF: KUWAIT 1177

1. (SBU) The Ambassador sent on May 24 a letter to the Minister of Communication, Dr. Ismail Al-Shatti, formally notifying the GOK of United Airlines' (UA) decision to launch nonstop service this winter between Kuwait City and Washington, D.C. Post helped ensure that UA's press release reached appropriate media in Kuwait. (Note: This is, to our knowledge, the first U.S. carrier service to the Gulf in a long time since TWA stopped service to Saudi Arabia in 2001. We don't recall regular service by a U.S. carrier to Kuwait, although hundreds of U.S. charters have come to Kuwait in connection with OIF/troop deployments.)

2. (SBU) In separate conversations with the Amir's advisor, Youssef Ebrahim, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Khaled Al-Jarallah, the Ambassador reaffirmed the USG's readiness to finalize a date for the signing of an Open Skies Agreement based on the GOK's tentative agreement (reftel).

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